



For immediate release
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Fourth SARS Case Identified in Santa Clara County

SAN JOSE, CA – Santa Clara County Public Health Department officials have identified another suspected case of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), an atypical respiratory illness possibly linked to the coronavirus family.

The fourth case involves a 28-year-old woman who, like the other three cases, recently traveled to Hong Kong or other parts of Asia where SARS has been documented. Her doctor, in consultation with the Santa Clara County Public Health Department, determined that hospitalization was not necessary. As a precaution, however, she has agreed to remain in isolation at home until cleared by health officials, who are monitoring her condition daily.

Of the three other Santa Clara County cases, only one, a 37-year-old female, remains hospitalized. She is in fair condition. The other two cases involve a 38-year-old male who returned home on March 25 after hospitalization and a 33-year-old male, who after being hospitalized in Denver, Colorado, returned to his home in Santa Clara County on March 22. The Public Health Department is closely monitoring the condition of these individuals.

As of today, the World Health Organization is reporting 1408 SARS cases worldwide, with 53 deaths. In the United States 51 cases have been documented, 12 in California. There have been no deaths from SARS in the U.S. On March 24, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that SARS might be caused by a previously unrecognized virus from the coronavirus family.

“We are working closely with the local medical community, as well as state and federal health officials, to keep a close eye on this situation,” said Dr. Marty Fenstersheib, Health Officer for Santa Clara County.

To avoid confusion with other respiratory illnesses, Dr. Fenstersheib pointed out that there are specific conditions that must be present to meet the case definition of SARS:

- Fever ($>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ or 100.4°F);
AND one or more signs or symptoms of respiratory illness including:
- Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or abnormal chest x-ray;
AND one or more of the following:

- **History of travel to Hong Kong; Guangdong Province in the People's Republic of China; Hanoi, Vietnam; or Singapore within ten days of symptom onset; or**
- **Close contact with persons with respiratory illness having the above travel history. Close contact includes having cared for, having lived with, or having had direct contact with respiratory secretions and body fluids of a person with SARS.**

Anyone who has traveled recently to the regions identified above and feels ill should seek advice from their physician. Physicians should report any suspected case of SARS to Disease Prevention & Control at 408-885-4214. Additional reporting information has been included in the clinical guidelines.

For more information about SARS and travel updates, please see the CDC's and World Health Organization's Web sites at www.cdc.gov and www.who.int.